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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY, OCTOBER 6, 2004

1. This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for October 06, 2004. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

2. ZAMAN: In Adana, police from the Anti-Smuggling and Organized Crime Department of Adana Security Directorate seized 7.250 kilos of material used in making hashish. Cebbar A. was caught red-handed while trying to sell the material to police and was imprisoned.

3. ZAMAN: Former CHP Hakkari Lawmaker Mikail Ilcin said around 40-50 million Kurds lived in the world, and asked if the world would come to an end if the Kurds who having been struggling for seventy years in Iraq founded a state. Ilcin defined himself as a Turkish/Kurdish nationalist of Turkey. Ilcin said a Kurdish state, which would hoist its flag in Northern Iraq, would not undermine Turkey.

4. MILLIYET: Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul expressed his concern about the PKK/Kongra-Gel organization's presence in Iraq to the new Iraqi Ambassador to Turkey, Cemil Umran. Ambassador Umran responded that because Iraq had not fully installed domestic security yet, it might be impossible for the Iraqi administration to address its neighbor's security expectations.

5. CUMHURİYET: In order to abolish the "Temporary Village Guard System," the Interior Ministry has been working on a draft law, which will affect 58,400 guards currently on the payroll and 26,967 voluntary ones. According to the draft law, the village guards aged 45 with 10 years of active service will be entitled to retirement, an annuity, and health coverage. Village guards aged 45 but with less than 10 years of service will be compensated by severance pay. Village guards have been accused of assisting and harboring PKK elements, arms smuggling, drug trafficking, abducting girls and rape, and are seen as the biggest impediment to return to evacuated villages.

6. CUMHURİYET: Hakkari Governor Erdogan Gurbuz announced that two PKK/Kongra Gel members were arrested by the Jandarma during a car search on the Yuksekova-Semdinli highway. One was a Syrian national while the other was registered in Yuksekova.

7. CUMHURİYET/ULKEDE OZGUR GUNDEM: The hearing of the case concerning Bingol HRA President Ridvan Kizgin and 125 women who tried to form a "Dialogue Desk for Peace" in Bingol last year opened at the Bingol Criminal Peace Court yesterday. They are being charged with "resistance to police." The hearing, which more than 100 women from various parts of the country attended, was postponed to an unspecified date.

8. SABAH: Two children, Selam Derer and Hadi Yildiz, who live in the Ferhatkale Camp in Gelisen village of Semdinli, Hakkari province, took home a landmine they found in a field. The mine exploded and Elam Derer (12), Hadi Yildiz (10), and Bahrem Aslan (33) were killed, and three others were wounded.

9. TURKIYE/MILLI GAZETE: Despite stringent security measures in Kirmitli, Osmaniye province, where two persons were killed and three others wounded as a result of clashes between the current and former mayors' families, three more persons were wounded in clashes yesterday. The Jandarma re-intensified security measures.

10. EVRENSEL/ULKEDE OZGUR GUNDEM: NGOs and political parties in Tunceli asked GOT officials to stop military operations that are causing fires in the forests in Tunceli. They demanded the government undertake steps to resolve the Kurdish issue. EMEP-Tunceli Provincial Chairman Huseyin Tunc said that military operations covered the entire region, and the resulting violation of the "right to life" could result in a new wave of migration. Tunceli Bar Association President Huseyin Aygun stated that forests in the region were being burnt under the pretext of combating terrorism, and that people were prevented from extinguishing the forest fires. Attorney Aygun said the perpetrators of the fires should be held accountable. Eighteen young Human Shield Initiative (HSI) members from Sanliurfa set off for Tunceli in an effort to halt operations there and to establish a bilateral truce. In Sanliurfa, around 200 persons supporting HSI members chanted, "Peace is the essence of humanity, and we are going to become the voice of peace." The crowd shouted slogans including, "No to War" and "May Hands Raised Against Peace Break."

11. EVRENSEL/ULKEDE OZGUR GUNDEM: The military operation that started on September 22 in the Bercalan Pasture, Hakkari province, is continuing. It is claimed that chemicals were used in the pasture during the operation, and that many cattle were killed as a result. Seven pastures as well as the Kocanis village, where ten families had returned, have been re-evacuated. An Investigation Committee to be made up of Van and Hakkari Goc-Der (Migration Association) and HRA offices, along with DEHAP will go to Bercalan Pasture in the coming days.

12. EVRENSEL/ULKEDE OZGUR GUNDEM: The International PEN General Secretary Terry Carlbom, accompanied by Kurdish PEN authorities,

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visited Diyarbakir Mayor Osman Baydemir regarding the Writers' 2005 Meeting to be held in Diyarbakir.

EDUCATION

13. TERCUMAN: Diyarbakir Deputy Governor Cumali Atilla said there was a need for 3,000 classrooms in Diyarbakir province, and that 250 trillion Turkish Liras (approximately USD166.6 million) were needed to address the gap. Atilla said there were eighty students per class and four students shared a desk, and added that because there were no schools in some villages, parents were unable to send their daughters to be educated. Deputy Governor Atilla said there were 350,000 students and 11,000 teachers in Diyarbakir province.

ALLISON